



Deputy Assistant Commissioner Laurence
Taylor

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Dear DAC Taylor,

Child Q Safeguarding Report

We are writing to you, for your urgent attention, with regard to the case of Child Q, which has been widely reported this week, and because of the effect it has had on our confidence in our local police.

The appalling experience of Child Q, within what should have been the safe environment of her school, has shocked and distressed people not just within Hackney, but across the whole country. It has traumatised or re-traumatised many people, especially within our Black communities, and it is incumbent on all of us to ensure that this is taken seriously, and never allowed to happen again. Child Q should have expected to be treated with dignity, respect and her interests as a child protected. It is clear from the report that the school and police officers failed to do that.

From the outset, the response of Hackney Police to this incident has been unsatisfactory, and the review team faced difficulties in accessing the officers involved and useful data.

We are writing to you to ask for your assurances that all the recommendations for the police within the Safeguarding Report are acted upon by you and your senior leadership team in a manner that is both thorough and urgent.

We would like to ask you to commit to providing a written and public action plan, within the next fortnight, to give a full account of the actions you and your senior team intend to take to respond to those recommendations, followed by a meeting with us to discuss that plan.



With regards to the officers involved in the incident, we are aware, having met with the IOPC and seen their statement, that there is an investigation underway into their conduct, and that you will not wish to act before this concludes. However, we would like your reassurance that you will act robustly and decisively on the findings of the IOPC, and that in the meantime, those officers have not and will not be deployed to work in or with schools or in a context where child safeguarding is involved. We do not feel that the action plan however needs to wait.

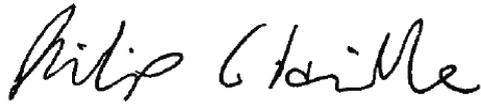
The police apology that has already been issued is of course welcome, but is in no way sufficient to reassure either us or the wider community that the lessons of this awful case will be taken on board, and that no other child will have to endure what Child Q suffered and continues to bear the consequences of. When the report was published on Monday, our statement made a clear commitment that we are absolutely focused on making sure the legacy of Child Q's experience results in change. We and our communities expect that same level of commitment and clear communication from the police. None of us are in any doubt that this terrible incident, on the back of others, will have a further significant impact on trust and confidence in the police, which is already too low. That is why a detailed, robust and rigorous response from the police is so crucial.

Hackney Council is fully committed to anti-racism and has been leading work locally and nationally on adultification and anti-racist practice in child safeguarding, and will intensify this work in response to the relevant safeguarding recommendations in the report. Since the findings of this review became clear, we have offered support to Child Q and her family, given additional support to young people affected by this case through our Young Hackney service, written to schools with clear guidance on strip searches and increased adultification training. However, this work can only succeed with the full commitment of our partners, including both schools and the police. The case did not happen in a vacuum, and is part of longstanding engagement between the Council, local police and community on matters of policing and race over many years. It is now time for action.

A failure to do this will further knock the community and our own confidence in our local police – which is already strained following a series of difficult events.

We look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

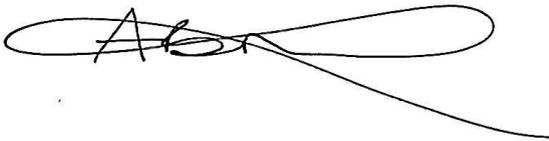
Yours sincerely



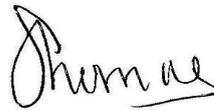
Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney



Mark Carroll
Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney



Cllr Anntoinette Bramble
**Deputy Mayor of Hackney and
Cabinet Member for Education,
Young People and Children's Social
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Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas
**Cabinet Member for Community
Safety**

CC Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor of London for Policing and Crime
Sem Moema, London Assembly Member for Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest
Diane Abbot, Member of Parliament for Hackney North & Stoke Newington
Meg Hillier, Member of Parliament for Hackney South & Shoreditch